

## **Veterans Guide Changes -- Printed Version**

### **Page 19**

**Addition of New Jersey income tax benefit. Military pensions and survivor's benefit payments excluded from gross income. Gross income shall not include military pension payments or military survivor's benefit payments paid to individuals by the United States with respect to service in the Armed Forces of the United States. The prior gross income tax exemption applied only to those individuals over 62 years of age. This act shall take effect immediately and apply retroactively to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2001. Public Law 1997, c.409. *Note - This law does not effect federal income taxes.***

### **Page 20**

**Change requirement of Vietnam Service Medal from "were residents of New Jersey" to "are currently a resident of New Jersey."**

**Addition of Medal - The New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal is awarded to those combat veterans who were not residents of New Jersey when they entered the military service, but who are current residents of New Jersey and have resided in the state for the previous five years. All other qualifications are the same as for the Distinguished Service Medal. The Meritorious Service Medal is a lesser medal than the Distinguished Service Medal. To apply for the MSM, send the application to the same address as the DSM.**

## **Page 24**

**Correction of spelling error. In first column, in "Response Time" paragraph, change "Frech" to "French."**

## **Page 26**

**Changes to the New Jersey National Guard Tuition Waiver Program. Effective January 29, 2001, the number of tuition-free credits that a member of the New Jersey National Guard may receive at a participating state college or university and also permitted the use of the tuition program for graduate studies. Previously, New Jersey Guard members were permitted to take 12 credits per semester tuition-free; the credits have been raised to 15. This program allows members of the National Guard to attend a state college or university and pay only for books and student fees. Under the new bill New Jersey National Guard members in good standing can also use the tuition assistance in graduate programs at these same state colleges and universities. Members of the National Guard must still meet the qualifications to participate in the program as previously detailed.**

**Changes to the Federal VA Education Benefits. The following three changes apply to all education benefits offered through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.**

***Definition of Educational Institution:* Changes the definition of Educational Institution to include any private entity that offers,**

**either directly or under an agreement with another entity, a course or courses to fulfill requirements for attainment of a license or certificate generally recognized as necessary to obtain, maintain, or advance employment in a vocation or profession in a technological occupation, as determined by VA. This applies to enrollments in courses beginning on or after December 27, 2001.**

***Distance Education:* Permits payment for independent study programs if they lead to a certificate that reflects educational attainment offered by an institution of higher learning. This applies to enrollments in independent study courses beginning on or after December 27, 2001.**

***Fugitive Felons and Benefits:* Prohibits veterans and eligible dependents from receiving veterans benefits while a "fugitive," which is defined as a person fleeing to avoid prosecution, or custody or confinement after conviction, for an offense, or an attempt to commit an offense, which is a felony under the laws of the place from which the veteran flees. Among the benefits affected are those under chapters 30, 31, 32, 34 and 35 of title 38, United States Code.**

**Page 27**

**Correction of form number. In first column, in last line, change "VA Form 4-5281" to "VA Form 24-5281."**

**Change to The Montgomery GI Bill section. The Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-**

**103) provides veterans a major boost in the monthly educational payments offered under the Montgomery GI Bill. Increases rates for approved full-time studies from \$672 to \$800 effective January 1, 2002; \$900 effective October 1, 2002; and \$985 effective October 1, 2003. Rates are also increased for veterans enrolled part-time or for those with limited military service.**

**Addition to The Montgomery GI Bill section. Restoration of Entitlement: Restores educational assistance entitlement under the MGIB-Active Duty, the Veterans' Educational Assistance program (VEAP), the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program (DEA), and the chapter 31 program for any servicemembers, reservists, or DEA recipients called to active duty during Operation Enduring Freedom and at any time in the future. The effective date is September 11, 2001.**

**Addition to The Montgomery GI Bill section. Accelerated Payments for education leading to employment in high technology: Makes eligible those persons charged tuition and fees such that, when divided by the number of months in the enrollment period, the monthly amount exceeds an amount equal to 200 percent of the monthly rate otherwise payable. The total amount of payment will be the lesser of: 60 percent of program costs, or the total amount of education assistance to which the person has entitlement at the time of payment. This lump sum would be deducted from the veteran's remaining MGIB-Active Duty entitlement. This is effective October 1, 2002.**

**Addition to The Montgomery GI Bill section. MGIB Eligibility: Enables Vietnam-era veterans to convert their Vietnam-era GI Bill benefits to Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty benefits if the veteran had eligibility for the Vietnam-era GI Bill benefits as of December 31, 1989, was not on active duty on October 19, 1984, and served three continuous years on active duty on or after July 1, 1985, or two years on active duty followed by four years in the Selected Reserve on or after July 1, 1985. This provision overturns the General Counsel Opinion which held that service had to begin on July 1, 1985.**

## **Page 30**

**Changes to the Student Work Study Allowance Program. Expansion of Work-Study Opportunities: Provides that qualifying work-study activity includes any of the following: the Veterans Outreach Services Program for work performed under the supervision of a VA employee, or, during the 5-year period beginning on December 27, 2001, outreach services to servicemembers and veterans furnished by State approving agency employees; preparation and processing of papers and other documents at educational institutions or regional offices or facilities of VA; provision of hospital and domiciliary care and nursing home and hospital care to veterans (under 38 USC chapter 17), including, during the same 5-year period mentioned above, care to veterans in state veterans' homes; any other activity of VA that the Secretary determines appropriate; for individuals training under chapter 1606, activities relating to the administration of that chapter at**

**Department of Defense, Coast Guard, or National Guard facilities; during the same 5-year period mentioned above, activities relating to the administration of a national cemetery or a State veterans' cemetery. This applies to agreements entered into on or after December 27, 2001.**

## **Page 31**

**Changes to the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA). Expansion Chapter 35 Eligibility of Spouses and Surviving Spouses: Invalidates "Ozer" and reinstates a 10-year delimiting period in which spouses may, upon first becoming eligible, use DEA benefits. Under Ozer v. Principi, February 6, 2001, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims decided that chapter 35 spouses have no delimiting date. In addition, if a spouse becomes a surviving spouse due to the death of the veteran, the surviving spouse would receive a new 10-year delimiting date, but in no case would his or her aggregate entitlement exceed 45 months.**

## **Page 67**

**Addition of information in column 2, in "Priority Group 3" paragraph, add "~ Veterans who have been awarded a Purple Heart."**

## **Page 80**

**Addition of Information in VA Headstone for burial in a Private Cemetery section. VA headstones now authorized to double**

**mark graves of veterans who die after December 27, 2001. Public Law 107-103 (the Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001) includes a provision that allows the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish an appropriate marker for the graves of eligible veterans buried in private cemeteries, whose deaths occur on or after December 27, 2001, regardless of whether the grave is already marked with a non-government marker. This new provision is codified at 38 U.S.C. § 2306(d). The VA is now accepting applications for markers under the provisions of Public Law 107-103.**

**Page 90**

**State Veterans Services Offices address changes - as of 5 February 2003**

**ASBURY PARK**

**630 Bangs Avenue**

**Suite 320 (note this change)**

**732-775-7009 or 7005**

**ATLANTIC CITY (Tuesdays and Thursdays)**

**1333 Atlantic Avenue (note this change)**

**2nd Fl.**

**609-441-3060 or 3061**

**BRICK**

**970 Route 70**

**732-840-3033 or 3034**

## **ELIZABETH**

**1196 Chestnut Street**

**908-820-3133 or 3134**

## **HACKENSACK**

**Center City Plaza (note this change)**

**60 State Street**

**201-996-8050 or 8051**

## **JERSEY CITY**

**438 Summit Avenue**

**3rd Fl. Rm. 302 (note this change)**

**201-798-7040, 7051 or 7026**

## **MAYS LANDING**

**5914 Main Street, Suite 102**

**(609) 625-9163 or 1458**

## **MT. LAUREL**

**1000 Howard Blvd., Suite 301**

**856-787-3820 or 3821**

## **NEWARK**

**20 Washington Place**

**973-297-3032 (note this change)**

## **NEW BRUNSWICK**

**711 Jersey Avenue**

**732-937-6347 6348 or 6349**



## **NEWTON**

**5 South Park Dr.**

**973-383-4949 or 1363**

## **PATERSON**

**100 Hamilton Plaza, 6th Fl. (note this change)**

**973-977-4050 or 4051**

## **PORT MURRAY**

**550 Route 57**

**908-689-5840 or 5845**

## **THOROFARE**

**215 Crown Point Ste 300**

**856-853-4184, 4185 or 4186**

## **TRENTON**

**142 W. State Street**

**609-292-5880 or 5881**

## **VINELAND**

**524 Northwest Blvd.**

**856-696-6452 or 6445**

## **Page 91**

**Change Camden County VSO phone number to 856-566-7297.**

**Change Essex County VSO phone number to 973-395-8394.**

**Change Passaic County VSO location to 401 Grand Street,**

**Patterson, NJ 07505; phone number to 973-881-4119; and fax number to 973-881-4485.**

**Addition of Passaic County VSO secondary, part-time, location 317 Pennsylvania Ave., Patterson, NJ 07505; phone number 973-881-4173; and fax number 973-925-8063. (Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.)**

## **Page 93**

**Change Allentown Outpatient Clinic address to: 3110 Hamilton Blvd., Allentown, PA 18103-3672. Phone numbers remain the same as previous location, 610-776-4304.**

**Addition of New Brunswick Outpatient Clinic (Tuesdays and Wednesdays only.) 317 George Street, New Brunswick, NJ; 732-729-0646.**

## **Page 95**

**Change Women Veterans Advisory Committee contact information to Kathleen Morrissey at 609-530-6967. Additional information – the committee meets on the first Wednesday of every month at the N.J. Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park at 10:00 a.m. All are invited. If interested in serving on the committee, submit resume to N.J. DMAVA, Attn. Kathleen Morrissey, 101 Eggert Crossing Road, P.O. Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340.**

**DOWNLOAD** this page in PDF Format.